

Sermon Title: "Help is on the Way"

Pastor Warnock

Date: January 23, 2021

Scripture: Daniel 1: 1-14

Summary

In difficult times like these, we could use some help. Truth be told, many of us have been brought to our knees by life's circumstances particularly over the last two years of this pandemic. Many of us have prayed with a sense of expectation that God will answer and God will provide. But what happens when it feels like our prayers are not being answered? What happens when we feel as though God isn't listening?

If we feel this way, we can relate to what Daniel is experiencing in this passage. Daniel was a prayer warrior who prayed three times a day. Indeed, God had gotten Daniel out of various predicaments, including from the mouth of a lion. But this time, in spite of the fact that Daniel had mourned, prayed, and fasted for 21 days, God still hadn't answered Daniel. But just when Daniel was about to give up the scripture says as Daniel stood by the banks of a Tigris River, a man appeared to him saying, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day... your words have been heard." (v. 12). Then he explained that the reason for his delay in coming to Daniel's aid was that the man had been battling with the opposition. He had encountered conflict, turbulence along the way.

Like Daniel, we may have been praying for various things to happen in our lives—marriages, children, careers, health and other challenges, but we can rest assured that God heard us the first time, and though we continue to be engaged in spiritual warfare, help is on the way. God heard us. God answered us. Help is on the way!

Reflection Questions

1. Describe a time when you prayed long and hard for something, but it seemed like God didn't answer. How did you feel?
2. With whom or what did you cross paths that assured you of God's presence?
3. Who are your allies, those whom you can depend upon to stand with you through difficult times? Whose ally are you?
4. Write specific prayer requests for yourself, someone else in need, our nation, and our world.